

Lafayette County Conservation and Zoning Office



1900 Ervin Johnson Drive
Darlington, WI 53530-9271
Phone: (608) 776-3836

* These minutes are subject to the approval of the Land Conservation Committee on 11/3/2015 *

MINUTES MEETING OF THE LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE USDA AG CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Leon Wolfe. Others present: Bartels, Hammer, James, J. Wiegel, Bartz, Lange, Loeffelholz, and Larson. Also present were Dave Terrall, USDA-APHIS, Troy Maggied and Chris Colney, SWWRPC.

Excused:

Larson stated that the agenda was posted in the USDA Service Center, by the County Clerk's Office, the Darlington Municipal Building, the Darlington Post Office, on the Lafayette County Webpage; and was sent to the press, WEKZ, the DNR, DATCP, and Terrall.

Motion was made by J. Wiegel and second by Hammer to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

Motion made by Bartels and second by Hammer to approve the minutes of the 9/1/2015 LCC meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

USDA-APHIS Wildlife Damage 2016 Budget & 2015 Crop Prices: (See Copy of Crop Price handout). Lafayette County has no claims. We have 4 enrollees, but they were issued shooting permits only. If they receive no funding, Public Hunting is not required. The landowner can give out hunting permits, but the hunter must have a current license. Tags are given in blocks of 5; usually 5-10. DNR wants half of them used in the first 45 day. If they aren't, you may have to skip a year, or allow public hunting. Those on the list are: Charles Helm, David King, Bob Laeser, and Amos Stoltzfus. There may be a harvest waiver if the log book shows hunters were allowed, but the deer weren't there. In the past, they have given out more tags if those were used. However they can't give out tags if there is no crop on the ground. If there is over \$1,000 of damage they must have a permit by February 15. Terrall does the inspection before the permits are issued. The landowner signs up his contiguous property.

Crop damage counts 4 crops of alfalfa, silage, and grain. The County sets the price. APHIS puts up a 12 month average. No action on prices is required for Lafayette County because we have no payments required here.

Budget-It has been lowered due to less in the deer donation program. We went from 3-4 enrollees. There are 2 budgets, but have the same bottom line. APHIS and DNR just have different budget categories.

James asked the price for processing. It is \$55 plus extra for holding for CWD. Iowa County has no processors, but they can bring them to Lafayette County. The processor has to be licensed with DATCP. At

Lafayette County Conservation and Zoning Office



1900 Ervin Johnson Drive
Darlington, WI 53530-9271
Phone: (608) 776-3836

this time only Reicher Meat Processing is South Wayne is participating. Previously deer from ag tags weren't eligible, but they are thinking about including them. The LCD retains \$750 for administration.

Motion to approve the Wildlife Damage Budget of \$10,280 by James, Second by Hammer. Motion carried.

Field Staff & Department Head Report: Loeffelholz stated that Brandt is at the old Eastwood property owned by Greg's Feed & Seed. They are doing a manure storage abandonment, and should be taking out the last of the manure today. They found no leakage in the soils under system. It passed the smell test-the nutrients are out of it. It was installed in 1972, and used lots of re-bar. They used a track hoe to take down the slats. Dan Hicks sucked the liquids out, until concrete particles started falling in. They will land-spread as much as they can, and a berm has been built for any liquid. The LCD will cost share the abandonment. The 80' X <200' building was last used in 1983. The building lacked adequate ventilation. At one point they hauled in whey.

Brandt is also working on a stream crossing at Gierhart's, and the Sonsalla project is done. McDermott is now working on his project.

Lange reported that he had been off for 3 weeks with his Dad's illness & passing, so he does not have much to report on. CREP activity is currently on hold. LCD used to have appointments at the same as FSA for CREP contracts. At the last sign-up there were FSA staff changes, and employees were not told that CREP contracts had to go to LCD also. He did not receive them until 4-6 months after they were approved. This time Lange asked to have them put on hold. Maggied stated that the LWRM plan uses priority farms, but they haven't been used yet.

Loeffelholz reported that he has been working on the Eastwood project, septic systems, and RCPP.

USDA Programs: Bartz stated that they have 100 new EQIP applications. With only 3 staff, and Amy helping out in other Counties also; they have a huge increase in workload. They won't be doing as many engineered projects, but will be focusing on forestry, wildlife, and cover crops.

CRP contracts were due in September. Melissa completed 23 contracts, but there were more that she couldn't get done in the short timeframe.

Other Agency Reports: None

Voluntary Notices of Non-Compliance: Dalvin Schultz, South Wayne – Didn't want to do the Nutrient Management Plan. He can get back in if he gets in compliance. Motion by J. Wiegel and second by James.

Wolfe stated that he had seen Gary Owens, who is offended that he was non-compliant, and not eligible. Lange stated that a copy is sent to the landowner, and to the Department of Revenue. This non-compliance does not apply to crop insurance.

Land Records Update – Discussion & Possible Action: Lauree Aulik, tax lister, will be moved to the new GIS Coordinator position. The Tax Lister position is open and posted, and will now be the Real Property Lister/GIS. The posting closes October 16, and the will be housed at the Treasurer's office.

Lafayette County Conservation and Zoning Office



1900 Ervin Johnson Drive
Darlington, WI 53530-9271
Phone: (608) 776-3836

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) –staff: Allison Volk and Coreen Fallat are writing the proposal. It will be for soft practices, and for the two AEA areas in Lafayette County. They will be having a conference call this afternoon. Some funding will be available for staffing. Lafayette County can house a staff member and provide a vehicle. The grant would allow \$36,000 toward staff. Dave Cutter, Driftless Area Conservancy, had suggested to Loeffelholz to check on the McKnight Foundation Grant to up the wages. The staff person would be required to work in the Pecatonica basin. Loeffelholz said there may also be a possibility of using some the Mine Reclamation funds toward staff hours, but they would have to split their time. Maggie commented that this would be a 5-year position, and that might be difficult to find a qualified candidate. A recent college graduate or a part-time, retired person. Those involved would be the County, Driftless Area Conservancy, and Southwest Regional Planning to help with funding the projects.

The first year would be getting a trained and qualified person, possibly part-time. The other agencies would be better as the fiscal agent. Housing could be at our office, and all are on-board with that. Wendy at SW Badger has also been involved. Some of the person's time could go to NRCS for writing contracts and making calls.

Approvals for the proposal will be in March or April. If approved, it could start in June. Discussion was held regarding whether the County HR would be involved. It looks like it would be best for the non-profit organizations to do the hiring. Stressed again that the proposal has to be approved before anything else can happen. The AEA's will be the focus area with Argyle and Blanchard to be the measurables.

There was a fish kill in Otter Creek last Thursday. It could not be tied to any specific site as there was a lot of spreading activity at the time.

Plastics Recycling: J. Wiegel stated that they are getting a dumpster. It is at no cost through the UWEX. They are working with some test sites on the East side of the County. They are requested to put the plastic in immediately to keep it as clean as possible, and to keep them near the bags. The firm is from Arkansas, and they have 14 dumpsters sites identified.

They are hoping to schedule a Clean Sweep program for 2017 which will include Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties. It will be \$20,000/County and will be ag oriented. This will be put into the budget. Kory, at UWEX is doing a lot of the work.

Preliminary Budgets: Hammer asked if LCD is hanging on to the 2014 carryover. Loeffelholz said that the Cost Share carryover must be kept, and that the vehicle replacement money is also included, however it is not the full \$10,000 for last year. He has not been told of any changes to the budget since it was submitted. Wolfe asked about the dues for SW Badger. They are included, but it is recommended that we track them under Internal Education. Sale of materials was highlighted as a recommendation from Finance to increase revenue, and offset the decrease from the proposed 2% employee raise.

Motion by James and second by Bartels to approve the LCD budget as submitted. Motion carried. Committee members signed the proposed budget for Finance.

In Correspondence: None

Lafayette County Conservation and Zoning Office



1900 Ervin Johnson Drive
Darlington, WI 53530-9271
Phone: (608) 776-3836

Approval of Vouchers: Motion by James and second by J. Wiegel to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

Future Agenda Items: 1) RCPP, 2) Discussion on FSA-Cost Share- Wolfe said he would speak to Russ Raeder, FSA District Director about coming to our next meeting.

The next meeting of the LCC will be Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Motion by J. Wiegel and second by James to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Recorded By

Nikki Larson
For Leon Wolfe
LCC Secretary

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
